



IN BRIEF



# VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE CURRICULUM: INVESTING IN PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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## The Issue

Impacting one in three women and girls globally, violence against women is the most pervasive human rights violation. It is rooted in gender-based discrimination, social norms and gender stereotypes that set in early.

Ending all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls is a specific target of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The best way to end violence against women and girls is to prevent it from happening in the first place, by addressing its root and structural causes, and by educating children and young people to promote respectful relationships and gender equality.

## Our solution

Preventing violence against women and girls needs comprehensive solutions that span across sectors.

Recognizing the importance of working with youth and leveraging the power of non-formal education that can reach children and youth in schools and in communities, UN Women and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) have jointly developed “Voices against Violence,” a non-formal education curriculum and programme for children and youth aged 5 to 25 years.

The programme breaks gender stereotypes, challenges harmful social norms, and builds youth capacity and leadership to lead advocacy and prevention in their communities. It trains youth leaders and peer educators to deliver age-appropriate content to children and young people, both male and female.

Through non-formal educational activities such as role play, discussions and games, the participants learn about violence against women and girls as a human rights violation, challenge gender stereotypes and social norms, and build respectful relationships. After completing the curriculum, youth participants develop locally relevant advocacy and community mobilization efforts.

## Results to date

**CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND REACH:** Voices against Violence is building the capacity of 3,000 youth leaders and 200 national trainers, and will engage 800,000 children and young people by the end of 2016. In Phase One, the Programme will reach 30 countries: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Dem. Rep of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Grenada, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, United States and Zambia.

**IMPROVED ATTITUDES:** 96% of the participants trained and surveyed exhibit improved knowledge, attitude and awareness. Survey responses indicate rejection of violence, of gender stereotypes and social norms that perceive women and girls as unequal or less valuable than men and boys, improved understanding of what constitutes as gender-based violence, rights and privileges of men, and equity for girls and women.

**TAKING ACTION:** Youth are leading action in their communities after completing the curriculum.

#### EMPOWERED YOUTH LEADERS TAKE ACTION:

- In rural **NIGERIA**, youth leaders mobilized local government and community leaders to address taboo issues such as rape, female genital mutilation and female child labor. As a result, reporting of abuse experienced by girls and young women increased.
- In **MALAYSIA**, youth leaders organized awareness raising events in Penang, collected 1040 pledges and surveyed Girl Guide members about their knowledge of how to access support if experiencing dating violence.
- In **KENYA**, youth leaders worked with their communities to map gaps and challenges in the implementation of relevant laws to address violence against women and girls.

## Scaling up impact

Voices against Violence is a holistic primary prevention programme that educates and empowers youth to lead community mobilization to prevent gender stereotypes and violence against women and girls. Voices against Violence Phase Two will have scalable approaches, such as.

- Rolling out the curriculum in up to 10 new countries, including in co-educational groups.
- Supporting youth-led community mobilization to prevent violence against women and girls in 5 – 10 select countries to strengthen/contribute to national efforts.
- Training youth leaders to effectively engage men and boys in their communities.
- Developing and implementing a toolkit to address cyber violence.
- Evaluating attitude and behaviour change, and sharing knowledge and best practices.

## Budget

Total budget for two years of programme delivery is estimated at USD 1,500,000, with scalable packages from USD 500,000.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For more information about this programme, visit <http://j.mp/voicesagainstviolencecurriculum> and contact Urjasi Rudra at [urjasi.rudra@unwomen.org](mailto:urjasi.rudra@unwomen.org).

## Why invest in Voices against Violence?

- Create and support a new generation of youth to transform gender roles and social norms, and to stop gender-based violence before it happens.
- Get value for your investment – USD500,000 packages can train 1,500 youth leaders in up to 10 new countries, or support community mobilization and delivery of the curriculum to reach 300,000 youth, develop new tools to engage men and boys and address cyber violence.
- Partner with experts: With 10 million members in 146 countries, WAGGGS has immediate access to youth in schools and grassroots communities, experts in non-formal education and trained facilitators ready to deliver the programme. UN Women has unique technical expertise to lead efforts to prevent and end violence against women and girls worldwide. Its strong partnerships with governments, organizations on the ground and the media enables UN Women to upscale the impact of the programme.
- Get recognized as a valuable partner for reaching gender equality goals through UN Women global communication products and reporting, visit programme sites and meet youth leaders, receive programme updates and highlights, collaborate for joint events and communication.

